

SECTOR REPORTS

The Upper Great Lakes Workshop was the first step in learning about and documenting the stakeholders concerns in our region for the National Assessment process. The purpose of the workshop was to collect input from a broad range of stakeholders that might be impacted by climate change and variability. Prior to the workshop, organizers decided which sectors were most important to examine. These sectors were chosen based on what was at stake in the region, as well as what previous climate change studies had shown would likely be affected. For the Upper Great Lakes region, there were nine sectors. They were Climate, Water Resources, Water Ecology, Land Ecology, Agriculture, Infrastructure, Economy, Human Health, and Governance & Education.

During the workshop, participants were organized into sector breakout groups according to their particular interests and asked to address four questions during four separate brainstorming sessions. Experience and interest were valued as highly as expertise and academic credentials during these discussions. All ideas and concerns were written on flip charts by rapporteurs, and afterward, each sector produced a report that chronicled their discussions.

The main objective of these sector reports was to capture the key points and the dynamic exchange of information during the breakout sessions. Undoubtedly, some of the concerns that were expressed in the breakout groups will turn out to be less important than others, but by erring on the side of inclusion, the chance of missing a concern was decreased. Additionally, the input from these breakout groups provides the basis for a more rigorous and detailed study of climate change impacts in the Great Lakes region that will be conducted in a Regional Assessment of Climate Change. This follow-up activity to the workshop will also provide information for the National Assessment.

